

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 EURE-00 COA-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 FMC-04 RSR-01 /122 W

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P 261750 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3553

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USOCD PARIS 437

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

COMICEDEFOR

NISRA/ KEFLAVIK

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0423

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES DISPUTE: NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH

RF: REYKJAVIK 0418

1. MFA HAS ANNOUNCED

THAT MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH

WILL BE CONDUCTED IN REYKJAVIK MAY 3 AND 4. GOI WILL BE REPRE-

SENTED BY FONMIN AGUSTSSON, FISHERIES MINISTER

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JOSEFSSON AND EDUCATION MINISTER OLAFSSON. BRITISH WILL BE REPRESENTED BY LADY TWEEDSMUIR AND DEPUTY FOREIGN SECRETARY STODDARD.

2. MFA LEGAL ADVISER HANS ANDERSEN TOLD EMBOFF THAT DESPITE RECENT INCIDENTS BRITISH REMAINED ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE INTERIM FISHING AGREEMENT AND ANDERSEN CONSIDERS BRITISH OFFER OF 25 PERCENT REDUCTION OF OVER- ALL FISH CATCH TO BE REASONABLE SINCE BASE YEAR OF 1971 REPRESENTING EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD CATCH FOR BRITISH.

ANDERSEN REITERATED THAT, AS SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, AGREEMENT WAS DEPENDENT UPON ICELANDIC DOMESTIC POLITICS ( A REFERENCE TO FISHERIES MINISTER JOSEFSSON'S UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT). ANDERSEN SAID THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY DOUGLAS HUME HAD INDICATED HE IS AN OLD FASHIONED DIPLOMAT AND DOES NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE LURID DETAILS. MAJOR BRUCE CONCURS IN THIS JUDGMENT AND INDEED SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME WITH THE GOVERNOR TRYING TO IMPRESS ON HIM THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR SECURITY. END FYI.

3. AS FOR THE QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE REFTEL -- THE BRITISH CAN DO NOTHING IN OPERATIONAL TERMS WITH THEIR EXISTING ESTABLISHMENT IN BELIZE. MAJOR BRUCE IS TOO WELL KNOWN LOCALLY TO BE USEFUL. THE GOVERNOR DID SAY THAT HE WOULD BRING UP THE IDEA DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS OF SENDING SOME BRITISH POLICE HERE TO TRY TO KEEP THE BELIZEAN FORCE HONEST. EMBASSY LONDON MIGHT WANT TO MAKE THIS POINT DURING ITS CONVERSATIONS WITH FCO. THE ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND MAJOR BRUCE BOTH BELIEVE THAT TWO BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS UNDERCOVER WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE. HOWEVER, IN BELIZE ONLY BELIZEAN POLICE OFFICERS ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY EMPOWERED TO MAKE ARRESTS. THEREFORE, ANY BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED HERE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ARRESTS UNLESS SOME SORT OF SPECIAL POWERS WERE GIVEN TO THEM. EMBASSY LONDON MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS WITH THE FCO WHAT EMERGENCY POWERS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNOR IN THIS RESPECT. IN OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THE BELIZEAN POLICE FORCE IS THOROUGHLY CORRUPT, IS COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY MINISTER C. L. B. ROGERS, AND THEREFORE WOULD BE TOTALLY UNRELIABLE IN THE OPERATION BNDD IS CONTEMPLATING. AS FOR EXTRADITION CERTAINLY THE USG COULD ASK FOR IT, BUT NOBODY, RPT NOBODY, HERE IS PREPARED TO SPECULATE ON THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. WHILE THE JUDICIARY IN BELIZE HAS A FAIRLY GOOD REPUTATION FOR IMPARTIALITY IT CANNOT BE CALLED A QUALITY ESTABLISHMENT. JUDGES ARE POORLY PAID AND POORLY TRAINED IN THE LAW. AN EXTRADITION PROCEEDING INVOLVING A PROMINENT LOCAL CITIZEN AND THE SUMS OF MONEY READILY AVAILABLE IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE IN ADDITION TO THE CONSIDERABLE LOCAL PRESSURE THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE ANY SUCH PROCEEDING VERY DIFFICULT FOR ANY BELIZEAN JUDGE.

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
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